SHRI MOHAMMED KHALEELUR RAHMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fertiliser subsidy is going to be more than projected in the current budget;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of fertilizer units which have been closed or have, suspended their production and those which are resuming production and the loss of production on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The reasons for increase in requirement of funds for fertiliser subsidy are as under :—

(i) Spill-over of expenditure on subsidy pertaining to 1992-93;

(ii) Increase in prices of inputs;

(iii) Increase in volume of imports.

(c) Eight major phosphatic fertilizer units had suspended their operations from March, 1993 onwards. All these eight units have since resumed their production. In addition, two urea units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, a sick company, have suspended production since October, 1993 due to liquidity problems.

During the current year, upto November, 1993, there has been a shortfall in production by about 33,000 tonnes of Nitrogen and 1,38,000 tonnes of Phosphate with reference to the targets fixed for these units.

The Gorakhpur unit of FCI is lying closed since June, 1990 due to an accident. In addition, about 25 small units producing single superphosphate have suspended production due to liquidity problems.

APPOINTMENT OF A CONTROLLER OF SPORTS IN AIR INDIA

3064. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has appointed a controller of Sports ;

(b) whether the post of Controller of Sports in Air India is a scheduled post ;

(c) if so, whether the laid down procedure of selection for such posts was followed by Air India ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government's approval was sought for waiving the laid down selection criterion ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post carries the pay scale of Rs. 6250-175-7475 which is identical to Schedule 'D' scale of pay in public enterprises.

(c) and (d) This post was created for appointment of a suitable persons to head the Sports Division of Air India with the overall responsibility of developing and implementing schemes to promote excellence in sports. The post was filled up on absorption basis by an officer of Indian Railways with requisite experience, with the approval of the Government.